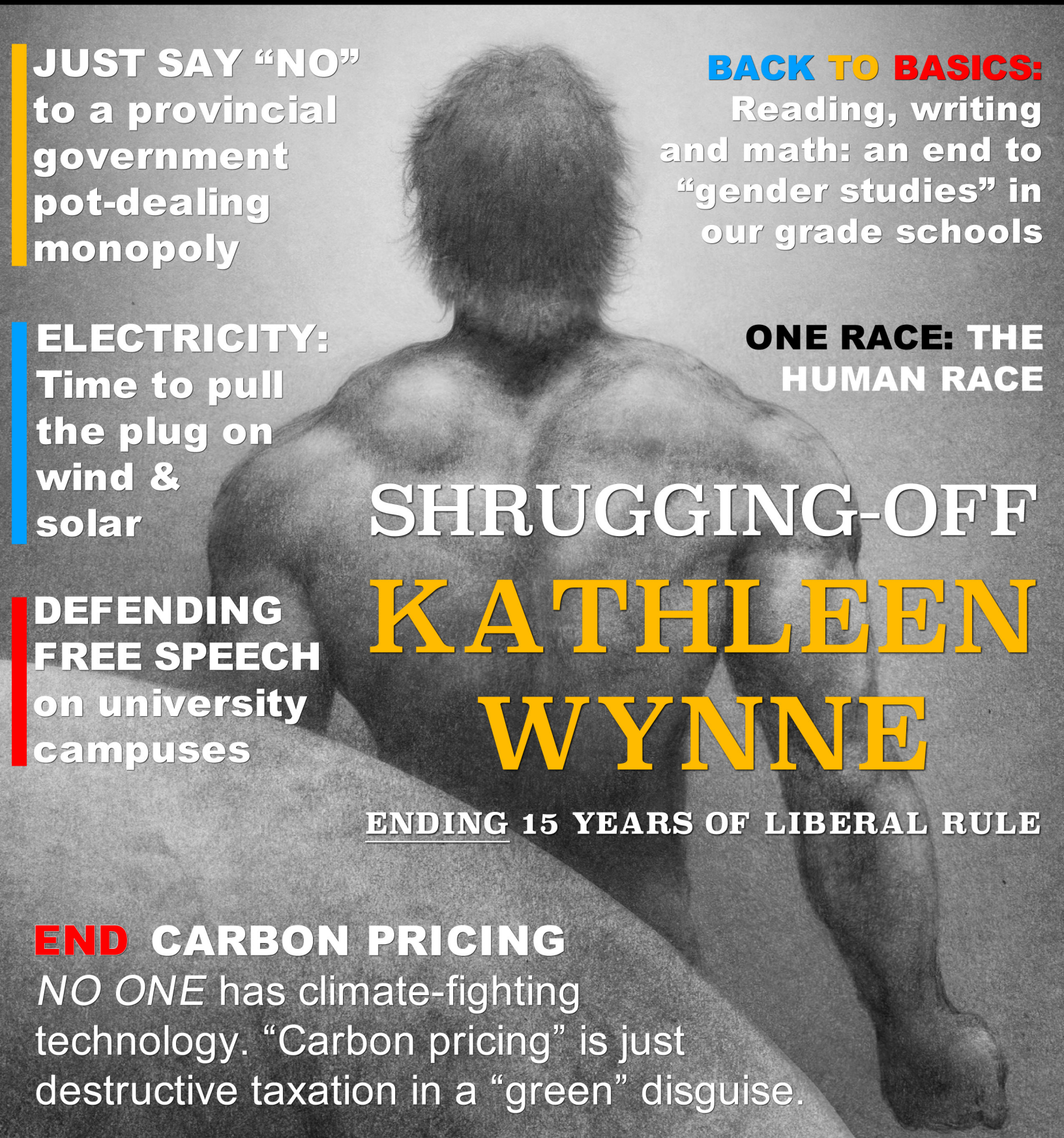
FREEDOM

Freedom Party of Ontario's 2018 Election Platform



JUST SAY "NO" to a provincial government pot-dealing monopoly

ELECTRICITY: Time to pull the plug on wind & solar

DEFENDING FREE SPEECH on university campuses

BACK TO BASICS: Reading, writing and math: an end to "gender studies" in our grade schools

ONE RACE: THE HUMAN RACE

SHRUGGING-OFF KATHLEEN WYNNE

ENDING 15 YEARS OF LIBERAL RULE

END CARBON PRICING

NO ONE has climate-fighting technology. "Carbon pricing" is just destructive taxation in a "green" disguise.

Leader's Message

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Like you, I love living in Ontario. However, the province has seen better days.

Ontario was once a major producer of goods. Commercial and industrial activity was so vibrant that it strained our electrical resources. Just four elections later - all of them won by the Ontario Liberals - much of that activity has moved away. While tax increases, climate-fighting, regulations and wage controls have continued to kill-off private-sector jobs by the tens of thousands, we have heard on the news that, meanwhile, government employees are getting wage increases often better than the rate of inflation. Not infrequently, you nowadays will hear the sentiment that the only way to live comfortably in Ontario is to know the people needed to land a job working for the government.

Little wonder. Under the Liberals - who promised to govern from the "activist centre" - the role and power of government has grown at an accelerating rate. To expand its power and control, it has used "identity politics" deliberately to sew the seeds of distrust among us. Women are pitted against men, and femininity is pitted against "toxic" masculinity. You are no longer an individual: you are one of the "whites" or you are a "member of the black community". All hard-earned personal achievement is dishonestly derided as unearned "privilege".

It is not enough, anymore, peacefully to tolerate the beliefs or practices - whether religious, or cultural, or political - with which you personally disagree. Now, the government requires you to accord the same high regard to all beliefs and practices, even if they, to you, are completely wrong or distasteful. Nobody can be right: everything must merely be someone's *opinion*. Nothing can be better or worse: only *different*.

Worse, it has come to the point that the government requires you to let another person's fantasy trump the evidence of your senses. Calling a male "Mister", or refusing to let him use the womens restroom may land you in the witness box at the Human Rights Tribunal if the male in question believes himself to be a female trapped in a male body.

The justice system itself is under attack. Your life can be destroyed by an unfounded accusation made anonymously on the nightly news, and no less than your Premier, as well as the leaders of the opposition parties in the Legislature, will praise the anonymous accusers as "brave", thereby implicitly declaring the accusations to be true. No presumption of innocence. No due process.

Paul McKeever, Leader of the Freedom Party of Ontario

That same lack of respect for the law is reflected in the current government's lack of respect for the taxpayer and electricity consumer. Shameless annual deficits by the Liberals have made Ontario the world's most indebted sub-sovereign borrower. "Green energy" fiascos have made electricity prices soar.

In the pages that follow, I present to you a number of proposals to start the process of repairing the damage that has been done to our fair province. Underlying these proposals is a respect for reality and evidence, for the good and the better, and for every individual's freedom to pursue his or her own happiness in his or her own way. It is a respect, a vision, and a plan of action unlike those offered by the Liberals, Progressive Conservatives (PCs), or NDP.

Ideas, not party colors, change the province. The choice is clear. You can vote as you have in the past, and allow the government to continue along its current, destructive path. Or you can vote for your Freedom candidate on June 7th and make your vision for a better life in Ontario a reality. I encourage you to break with the old and, instead, try the *good*.

Paul McKeever
Leader of the Freedom Party of Ontario

FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO's 2018 ELECTION PLATFORM

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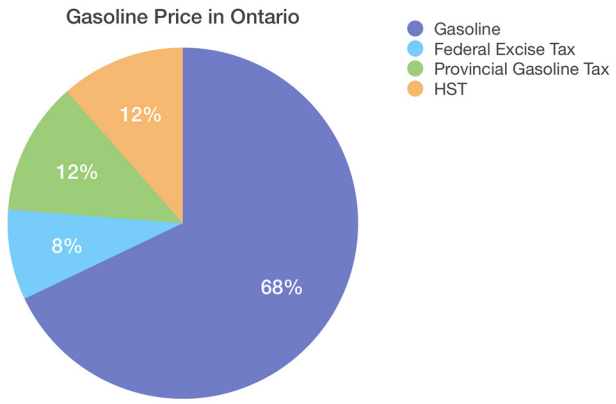
"FIGHTING" CLIMATE CHANGE?

The world has been several degrees warmer on average in the past, and it has been several degrees colder on average in the past. The climate is changing, as it always has, and always will.

To date, humanity does not have any technology that allows it to prevent the climate from changing. However, that has not stopped most politicians from using the fear of climate change as an excuse to introduce new wealth redistribution schemes - taxes, levies, regulations, carbon trading schemes - in the name of "fighting climate change". None of these schemes has had any demonstrable effect on the climate. What these schemes have achieved is a redistribution of wealth from those who earn it to those who do not (including both crony corporations and a Liberal government that hopes to buy votes with "free" stuff paid for with additional taxes).

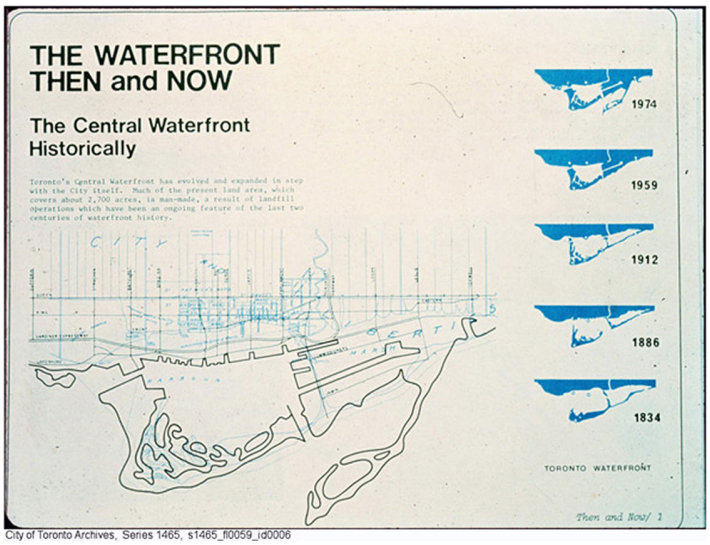
Ontario's Progressive Conservative ("PC") party and the New Democratic Party ("NDP") have refused to oppose the Liberals' expensive and ineffective climate fighting schemes, because climate-fighting has the support of approximately 50-60% of the population. None of the parties currently holding seats in the Ontario legislature stands with the 40-50% of the population who wants an end to *all forms* of climate-fighting schemes. Some PC politicians oppose a "carbon tax", but do not oppose other forms of a "price on carbon", such as cap-and-trade.



Piechart showing the components of the price of gasoline. NOTE: HST is charged on the Provincial Gasoline Tax. A Freedom Party will use federal carbon levy revenues to replace provincial gasoline tax revenues.

A Freedom government will put an end to *all* provincial climate-fighting programs. It will cancel the Liberal government's Climate Change Action Plan, dismantle cap-and-trade, and withdraw from the Western Climate Initiative.

Federally, the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau has set up a levy/tax on the energy resources upon which a



City of Toronto Archives, Series 1465, s1465_fl0059_id0006

healthy Ontario economy depends (the so-called federal "backstop"). Revenues from the federal backstop are forwarded to provinces that do not set up their own anti-carbon system. Like cap-and-trade and other carbon-taxing schemes, the federal backstop would have the effect of raising the price of gasoline and other fuels. Therefore, **a Freedom government will** repeal Ontario's provincial gasoline and fuel taxes to neutralize the harmful economic effects of the federal backstop levy.

Humanity lacks the technology to fight climate change, but it has the technology to adapt to the effects climate change. Indeed, humans have adapted to the effects of climate change on an ongoing basis. For example, the shoreline of Toronto has been altered as needed or wanted, to make it serve the purposes of human life in the area.

A Freedom government will approach climate change from the demonstrably effective and much less costly perspective of adapting to the effects of climate change as and when appropriate.

A Freedom government will not use climate change as an excuse to raise taxes and transfer wealth from those who earn it to those who do not.

If a federal carbon levy is imposed, **a Freedom government will** oppose the federal levy in court, because it is an infringement of provincial jurisdiction.

"GREEN" ELECTRICITY?

You have been told that electricity is expensive today because the Liberals wanted to pursue a climate-fighting agenda. That, however, is not true. The truth is that, like the Progressive Conservative government of Ernie Eves before them, the Liberal government of Dalton McGuinty scared-away private sector electricity generation companies that were seeking to build new power generation facilities in Ontario in the early 2000s. They scared those companies away by re-imposing price-controls on the retail price of electricity (price controls had been eliminated shortly before Ernie Eves took over the leadership of the Ontario PC Party, and became Ontario's premier). Private sector companies feared that, if they built new power generation, the government would eventually cap prices so that the companies would not be able to make a profit, and might even suffer a loss.

More power generation was desperately needed. In the mid-2000s, Ontario had significantly more industry, consuming large amounts of electricity. Ontario suffered rolling black-outs and brown-outs, as a result. To make matters worse, the McGuinty Liberals had won the 2003 election in part by promising to close Ontario's coal-powered electricity generation plants by 2007. Soon, there would be even less power to go around.

Having frightened-away private sector power generation companies, Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government decided to promise private power generation companies relatively high prices for electricity if they would build new gas-powered electricity generation stations in the province. It worked. These companies could make much higher profits with a guaranteed above-market price, promised by the McGuinty Liberals. High profits, with no risk of losing.

There were two problems facing McGuinty. The first problem was that it would take years before the new plants were operational. For that reason, the McGuinty Liberals imposed energy conservation policies such as a ban on the incandescent light bulb, and they announced a delay of the closure of the coal plants.

The second problem was that, when the new power generation was finally operational, the price of electricity would soar, and the voter would demand to know why prices were soaring. The McGuinty Liberals could not admit that they had scared electricity generators away with price controls. They needed another excuse. Al Gore's popular junk-science movie, "An Inconvenient Truth" - and the fear of global warming that it instilled in North Americans - gave the McGuinty Liberals the exuse they needed. The new, official cover-story was that the reason for closing coal plants was to reduce CO2, and thereby fight global warming.

By 2008, Ontario was bleeding manufacturing jobs. Industrial activity was moving to Asia. Ontario no longer had a shortage of power. What it had was a shortage of jobs.

To give added credibility to the cover-story that coal plants were being replaced with gas-powered generators in a bid to fight global warming, the Liberals announced that private companies would also be paid very high prices to build wind and solar power generators. By requiring companies to do a certain amount of the manufacturing in Ontario, the Liberals hoped that they would be able to find jobs for some of the people whose jobs were being shipped to Asia. The entire scheme was made law in 2009: the *Green Energy Act*.

Nothing worked out as hoped. "Green jobs" proved to be fewer in number than originally promised, and they were short-lived. Without industry to consume the new power, Ontario ended up having to pay U.S. consumers to take excess power off our hands. Wind and solar proved to provide very little electricity and what it did provide it provided when Ontarians least needed it (in the fall and spring). Connecting all of the many wind and solar units to the grid proved to be very expensive. Prices began to soar...

Today, the actual wholesale price of electricity is lower than ever: approximately 2 to 3 cents per kilowatt hour. However, pursuant to the *Green Energy Act*, Ontario's Liberal government makes consumers pay a "Global Adjustment" that adds several cents per kilowatt hour to the price of electricity. The Global Adjustment is used to pay wind, solar and other energy generators

at far-above wholesale market prices for the unneeded electricity they generate. It is also used to pay for various government-introduced energy conservation plans, at a time when Ontario has surplus electricity. In effect, the Global Adjustment results in electricity that is several times higher than the wholesale price, and experts say that the price of electricity in Ontario is going to continue to climb dramatically if we stay on the same path. In short, politicians meddled with electricity prices, scared away electricity generation companies by doing that, and then had to force us all to pay extortionate prices to those companies so that they would build new power generation in the province.

The lesson in this sorry tale is that when government meddles with prices for political gain, the consumer ultimately is left holding the bag and paying the price.

FINANCIAL POST

Lawrence Solomon: North America slow to reverse renewables projects, but its turn will come soon

Lawrence Solomon: In a democracy, it is right and proper for governments to rip up politically unpalatable deals

Antonio Heredia/Bloomberg

LAWRENCE SOLOMON
April 4, 2014
12:09 AM EDT

Only those in fantasyland should expect a contract to be sacrosanct when one party to the transaction makes the law

The Ontario Court of Appeal said as much when a major wind developer, Trillium Power Wind Corporation, objected when the provincial Liberals, to win some seats in the last election, abruptly changed the rules of the game. Trillium sued for $2.25-billion in damages on numerous grounds. According to an analysis by the law firm Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt, the Appeal Court all but laughed Trillium out of court.

Luckily, the Ontario energy consumer has been given some hope by a 2013 decision of Ontario's Court of Appeal. In the case of *Trillium Power Wind Corporation* v. *Ontario (Natural Resources)* the court made it clear that:

thestar.com

Ontario subsidies for electric vehicles under fire after minister's staffer leaves to work for Tesla

All Tesla models qualify for top payout of $14,000. Environment minister defends former chief of staff saying there is no conflict of interest.

By **ROB FERGUSON** Queen's Park Bureau
ROBERT BENZIE Queen's Park Bureau Chief
Thu., Feb. 23, 2017

> "...proponents who choose to participate in discretionary government programs, such as Ontario's renewable energy program, do so primarily at their own risk. Governments may alter the policies that underlie a program, and may even alter or cancel such programs, in a manner that may be fully lawful and immune from civil suit even if individual participants suffer damage from such alteration or cancellation." - *Summary by Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP*

In short, Ontario's government can pull the plug on the extortionate power price contracts that are contributing to the rise in electricity prices. It's just that the current government is unwilling to do it.

Ontario electricity consumers have suffered from almost 16 years of political meddling. It is time to depoliticize the generation and pricing of electricity in Ontario. To that end, **a Freedom government will**:

- repeal the *Green Energy Act*;
- pull the plug on already-existing, over-priced, Liberal green energy deals/subsidies;
- repeal the provincial ban on incandescent lightbulbs;
- end electric car subsidies; and
- restore the competitive price system to allow consumers to purchase the power they want, from competing private retailers, when they want it, at the lowest price the market will bear.

SCHOOLS: NO GENDER AGENDA

Ontario schools long have required students to be tolerant of our many differences, including such things as our genetic differences, our places of birth, our languages, our religions, our beliefs, etc.. It is very important that every student should have a school in which they are neither bullied nor physically harmed, and in which unresolvable differences of opinion are dealt with not with threats and violence, but with civilized discussion or with a simple agreement to disagree but to tolerate the other person's views.

However, especially since the election of Kathleen Wynne's Liberals, Ontario's schools have taken a turn for the worse. Instead of teaching children the tools they need to think and choose, Kathleen Wynne's agenda has schools teaching children that they must agree with and support a host of beliefs and attitudes. Even in elementary school - before children have any ability to collect and evaluate evidence - students are expected to accept as gospel a wide variety of beliefs about climate, gender, sexuality, morality, and politics.

In many cases, students are expected to treat all beliefs as merely subjective; to treat all opinions as possibly true and equally worthy of being taken seriously and respected. For the Liberals, it is not enough for people to be civil and tolerant of differences of opinion. Every opinion is to be respected and valued, unless Kathleen Wynne's Liberals have condemned it.

At the same time, teaching methods that essentially have students attempt to teach themselves such things as mathematics by way of "experiential learning" have left many students confused, and have left them with a false impression that they are incapable of learning when, in fact, the real problem is that nobody is teaching them. Reading skills, likewise, have been undermined by way of "whole language" methods that de-emphasize phonics, and by way of deemphasizing the knowledge of grammar. Such students are left ill-equipped to read some of the most important written works in human history.

The entire approach to eduction in Ontario has essentially moved away from giving children the skills they need to make logical, evidence-supported discoveries, and to evaluate the truth or falsity of the claims of others. It has moved toward giving diplomas to individuals who lack those skills, who lack confidence and self-esteem because they lack those skills, and who, as a result, are more dependent upon government to tell them what to believe, what to do, who to vote for, and where to pick up their dwindling government hand-out.

Ontario schools are in need of improvement. **A Freedom government will** make the changes necessary to ensure that today's children and young adults graduate with the skills and confidence they will need to make rational, productive decisions for themselves about what to believe, and what to do with their skills. *Among* those changes will be the following:

- Elementary school students will be taught the biology of male and female sex differences and reproduction. They will not be taught sexual techniques, sexual preferences, gender theories, or other age-inappropriate material. Kathleen Wynne's gender agenda will be removed from the curriculum.

- Teachers will be expected to fulfil the role of instructor, instead of playing the "experiential learning" role of a person who facilitates a student left to teach himself/herself.

- With respect to reading and comprehension, emphasis on phonics and grammar will be restored. Ontario students should be second to none in respect of reading, comprehension, and writing skills.

- Students will be shown how correctly to carry out fundamental mathematical procedures. Ontario students should be second to none in respect of mathematics.

- Politics, teacher/employer disputes, and social engineering will be kept out of the classroom.

- Children will be expected to tolerate, but not to value, that with which they disagree. The goal will be empowering students to think for themselves.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM, FREE SPEECH, FREE THOUGHT, and PUBLIC SAFETY

Universities have been places in which sometimes highly controversial or feared research, data, interpretations, innovations and ideas are discussed, challenged, and defended with dialogue. However, especially in recent years, we have witnessed the emergence of censorship, penalties for expressing controversial opinions, and violence on Ontario campuses. For example, we have seen:

- the use of physical violence and intimidation to shut-down events featuring guest speakers;
- the use of horns, shouting, drumming and other noise-making designed to prevent people from hearing people speak, or from hearing ideas discussed;
- the creation and enforcement of speech-codes that punish students or professors for using prohibited words or expressing prohibited ideas;
- the creation and enforcement of codes of conduct that give higher priority to making sure nobody is emotionally upset or insulted by an idea that they hear, than to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge;
- etc.

Ann Coulter's speech in Ottawa cancelled

STEVEN CHASE
OTTAWA
PUBLISHED MARCH 23, 2010
UPDATED MARCH 27, 2017

THE GLOBE AND MAIL — Ann Coulter's speech in Ottawa cancelled

Right-wing antagonist Ann Coulter cancelled a University of Ottawa address last night after organizers decided it wasn't safe to speak.

The move followed boisterous demonstrations outside that sponsors of the appearance feared could turn violent.

"There was a risk there could be physical violence," said Canadian conservative activist Ezra Levant, who was scheduled to introduce Ms. Coulter.

The problem has at least two root causes. One root is that universities are ill-equipped to defend the life, liberty and property of people who are being subjected to physical intimidation and force on university campuses. This has led universities to cancel or prohibit the hosting of talks or other events in the face of threats, by opponents of the talks/events, that they will use violence to prevent the events. For example, a talk about

VICE News

Ryerson University cancels 'free speech' panel discussion due to safety concerns

By **Sarah Krichel** Aug 16, 2017

Ryerson University has cancelled a contentious panel discussion on "stifling free expression" on university campuses, due to concerns they could not ensure the "necessary level of public safety" for the event to take place, according to their director of communications.

"The Stifling of Free Speech on our Campuses" was shut down by Ryerson University after a facebook page was set up to encourage rabble-rousers to attend and use intimidation and violence to prevent the event from going ahead. In short: threatened violence successfully censored a talk about the problem of censorship in universities. Ryerson's Communications Director explained why the university had cancelled the event:

> "After a thorough security review, the University has concluded that Ryerson is not equipped to provide the necessary level of public safety for the event to go forward...Ryerson University is prioritizing campus safety."

Another root is that there is mounting and troubling evidence that tax-funded universities and their professors have increasingly discouraged the challenging of certain ideas that are treated as unquestionable truths or as ideas, beliefs or views entitled to respect regardless of their merits.

A Freedom government will take steps toward restoring the role of universities as places in which any view can be expressed and heard peacefully and civilly; in which the pursuit of knowledge is not limited by religious or political concerns, or by concerns that someone might be insulted, or have their feelings hurt. These steps will include:

- Ensuring that sufficient policing resources are available on university campuses - at no additional cost to universities, their guests, or their students - at all times to ensure that talks, conferences, classes, etc. cannot be shut down or disrupted by opponents who attempt to use noise, intimidation, barricades, or violence to prevent the free exchange of opinions, information, and ideas.

- Consulting with professors, students, university administrators, and advocates of free speech and academic freedom, so as to develop legislation better to protect students and academics from being penalized for merely expressing their thoughts, beliefs, assessments or judgment about any belief, argument, data, practice, or way of thinking, or for conducting research or writing that some might seek to oppose.

- Imposing upon all tax-funded universities the requirement that the university's employment and tenure policies be strictly merit-based, without discrimination on the basis of such things as race, sex, and political affiliation; and

- Holding universities fiscally accountable for the promotion of any course, code, or practice that discourages or condemns independent thought or freedom of expression; or that legitimizes or promotes the use of physical intimidation or violence to restrict the pursuit or dissemination of knowledge or opinion in a university setting.

WLU censures grad student for lesson that used TVO clip

HAMILTON THE SPECTATOR

Prof compared airing discussion of pronouns to playing Hitler speech

NEWS Nov 15, 2017 by Luisa D'Amato Hamilton Spectator

Wilfrid Laurier University masters student Lindsay Shepherd, who was censured for showing a TVO video clip on the pros and cons on whether to use gender neutral pronouns. - David Bebee,Record Staff

WATERLOO — A graduate student at Wilfrid Laurier University who taught students about different points of view on gender-neutral pronouns has been censured and fears losing her teaching job.

Lindsay Shepherd teaches tutorials on language use to some of the first-year students who are enrolled in an entry-level Communications Studies class.

When the textbook turned to gender and language, she wanted to show that it is a subject under debate.

On Nov. 1 she showed the students a three-minute video clip from the TVO public affairs show "The Agenda."

FORCED SPEECH?

The freedom to speak your mind is not the only thing under attack. Over the course of the last year, provincial authorities have started to make it mandatory for people to make statements that they do not necessarily agree with.

Law Society votes to keep requirement lawyers adopt statement of principles on diversity

thestar.com

Toronto lawyer Joe Groia argued the Law Society's edict is unconstitutional because the statement of principles is "compelled speech."

Toronto lawyer Joe Groia: "What do we gain by offending so many men and women of conscience and faith?" Groia told his fellow benchers Friday. "Why do we stubbornly refuse to fix the mess we created?" (CHRIS SO / TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO)

By JACQUES GALLANT Legal Affairs Reporter
Fri., Dec. 1, 2017

The requirement that all lawyers and paralegals in Ontario adopt a so-called statement of principles that acknowledges their obligation to promote equality and diversity will remain mandatory.

For example, in the fall of 2017, the Law Society of Ontario - which licences people to practice law - told all lawyers that:

> "As part of this strategy you are required to create and abide by an individual Statement of Principles that acknowledges your obligation to promote equality, diversity and inclusion generally, and in your behaviour towards colleagues, employees, clients and the public. The Law Society will ask licensees to report on this in their 2017 Annual Report."

The risk, to all lawyers, is that if they do not create and abide by a "Statement of Principles" that says what the Law Society wants it to say, they may eventually lose their licence to practice. Many lawyers are objecting, but the Law Society appears to have dug in its heels.

A Freedom government will remove from the Law Society, professional colleges, and other self-governing bodies the jurisdiction to force their members to make such political statements.

DUE PROCESS

At the base of all law is: justice. At the base of our system of justice is (a) the presumption of innocence (no person is to be treated as though she/he is guilty until proven guilty by a proper evaluation of the facts and law by a competent authority), and (b) competent authorities that ensure that, when allegations are made, they are subjected to a due process before anyone concludes, says, or implies that the accused is guilty.

The Liberal government of Ontario has introduced legislation that pressures employers and universities to cut ties with anyone about whom an allegation of harrassment or assault is made, without due process. Universities and employers - neither of whom have the proper training or regulation to ensure due process - are essentially required to conduct investigations that ought rightly to be conducted by police or other governmental investigatory bodies. Their findings are then judged in the "court of public opinion". In practice, to avoid reputational harm, the university/employer is intimidated into expelling/dismissing a student/employee whether or not there is any compelling evidence to back up the allegation(s) made about him/her.

A Freedom government will introduce legislation that mandates the presumption of innocence in the workplace and in universities/colleges and that:

(a) deems an employer to lack just cause for dismissal; and

(b) deems a university or college to lack any basis for expelling a student

if the employer/school dismisses/expels the employee/student in response to allegations of harassment or assault, unless and until the allegations have been proven to be true pursuant to the due process of law commenced by the alleged victim and administered by a competent judge or tribunal, applying proper rules of evidence and civil or criminal procedure.

A Freedom government will ensure that allegations of harassment or assault are made to competent governmental authorities: police, courts, or tribunals. Neither universities nor employers will have any authority to conduct investigations or hearings concerning allegations of harassment or assault. Universities/employers will have no authority to compel a student/employee to answer questions about alleged harassment or assault.

BALANCED BUDGETS

When the Ontario government spends more than it receives from tax revenues and transfers from the federal government, it borrows money and increases the provincial government's debt. As the debt gets bigger, Ontario pays more of its revenue to its lenders as interest on the provincial debt.

For at least a generation, all three parties in the Ontario legislature - the Liberals, the PCs, and the NDP - have been in favour of more borrowing. For example, echoing the Liberal governments of Dalton McGuinty and Kathleen Wynne, Ontario's PC party promised in its 2011 election platform "We will set priorities – and stick to them – to balance the budget no later than 2017-18"...in other words: 7 years, and two provincial elections, into the future.

The Liberal government engaged in a fire sale of provincial assets such as Hydro One in an effort to make the budget appear balanced in 2017. However, the fact of the matter is that the province has continued to spend more than it receives from taxes and federal transfers. As a result, Ontario is now the world's most indebted sub-sovereign borrower. Such borrowing and spending is not sustainable.

A balanced budget can be achieved within one budget cycle. In fact, in each of 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, the Freedom Party of Ontario submitted to the government an "Opposition Budget" that laid out a plan to balance the budget; a plan to ensure that the government stops borrowing, and spends no more money than it brings-in in tax revenues and federal transfer funds. Where there is a will, there is a way. It's just that the Liberals, PCs, and NDP lack the will.

Money spent on interest payments is money that is unavailable for important government responsibilities. **A Freedom government will** introduce a balanced budget in the spring of 2019, and will continue to run on a balanced budget in each year thereafter.

YOUR GOVERNMENT: A POT DEALER?

The *federal* government has announced that the production, sale and use of cannabis for recreational purposes, by persons of at least 18 years of age, will be legalized by July of 2018. All *provincial* governments now have to be ready to deal with this significant federal change.

On November 1, 2017, the Ontario provincial government under Kathleen Wynne introduced new legislation that gives the provincial government a monopoly on the distribution and sale of cannabis. **A Freedom government will** cancel the Wynne government's cannabis plan. *The Cannabis Act, 2017* and the *Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation Act, 2017* will be repealed. It is not a proper role of government to be a pot dealer. Cannabis will not be distributed or sold by the LCBO or any other Ontario government entity.

Cannabis dispensaries have operated in Ontario for years, serving the needs of those who legally use cannabis for medicinal purposes. **A Freedom government will** continue the *status quo* with respect to wholesale and retail operations. Cannabis distribution and sale will remain the responsibility of private businesses competing in a free market. Sales to minors, and purchasing cannabis for minors, will be strictly prohibited. Sales to minors of equipment used exclusively for the growing or consumption of cannabis will be prohibited.

A privately-owned cannabis retail establishment in Toronto.

A Freedom government will focus on: crime prevention and public safety; keeping cannabis out of the hands of minors; providing support for police with respect to impaired driving; and ensuring that those who choose to inhale cannabis smoke or vapor can do so without violating others' ability to inhale clean, fresh air.

Cannabis is typically consumed in three ways: by inhaling burning cannabis, by inhaling heated cannabis (vaporizing), or by eating/drinking edible products containing cannabis components. The new federal law does not legalize the retail sale of edibles, but it does legalize personal production of cannabis and edibles.

Under new federal laws taking effect in 2018, cannabis can be burned vaporized or eaten (l-r: a "joint", a "vape pen" and edible cannabis goods)

A Freedom government will prohibit the burning of cannabis (e.g., the smoking of "joints") on public sidewalks, parks, beaches, schools, and government buildings. Burning that results in smoke traveling to another person's property will be prohibited on a complaint-basis. Vaporized and edible forms of cannabis will be exempted from the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* on a trial basis.

Many privately-owned cannabis vapor lounges have been in operation for years, serving the needs of medical cannabis users. They provide consumers with a safe, social space in which to consume cannabis without exposing others to cannabis. **A Freedom government will** amend the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* to allow cannabis vapor lounges to operate. Vapor lounge operators will be required to prevent the admission of minors.

A Freedom government will conduct a public consultation within six months after the federal legalization of recreational cannabis use with respect to reviewing the fairness and effectiveness of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*, and examining the propriety of amendments to the *Act*.

ELECTION FINANCES REFORM

In May of 1975, the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party of Bill Davis introduced the *Election Finances Reform Act*, which placed limits on how much money could be contributed by individuals, corporations, and unions to registered political parties. For the first time in Ontario's history, it required parties to report the names of their contributors.

In October of 2003, Dalton McGuinty's Liberals won a majority government. Plank 166 of their election platform called for the introduction of so-called "real-time reporting" of financial contributions to political parties.

In McGuinty's November 2003 speech from the throne, it was announced that the government would create a large "green belt" of land around the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area where development would be prohibited.

Six months later, on May 14, 2004, at the home of the brother of then Finance Minister Greg Sorbara, the Liberal Party quietly held a $10,000.00 per plate fundraiser. One Silvio DeGasperis - a land developer - was one of approximately 12 land developers who attended the fundraiser.

One month later, a law was passed that prohibited development on a "Greenbelt" of land with tentatively-drawn boundaries. The final boundaries of the green belt were yet to be determined.

On Friday, February 25, 2005, on the TVO show "Fourth Reading", Municipal Affairs Minister John Gerretson told host Susanna Kelley that "I have not met with any developers. I have purposely stayed away from meeting with individual landowners that had an interest in the greenbelt." In that show, Kelley broke the news of the May 14, 2004, $10,000.00 per plate Liberal fundraiser.

Three days later, the final boundaries of the Greenbelt were made law. The new law prohibited development in a 325 kilometer Green Belt that stretched from Niagara Falls to Peterborough.

Starting the following day, March 1, 2005, the Legislature erupted with questions and condemnations about the reported $10,000 "swanky soiree". The opposition parties wanted the names of the developers who had attended the Liberal fundraiser, and wondered if developers who paid the Liberals $10,000.00 had had their land holdings exempted from the Greenbelt.

Approximately 100 acres of DeGasperis' land - worth an estimated $15M - was exempted from the Greenbelt, but the new law banned development on approximately 400 hectares of DeGasperis's land in Pickering. On March 7, 2005, DeGasperis wrote a letter to Gerretson - apparently shared with members of the Opposition parties - thanking him for meeting with him during the boundary-determination process and thanking him for exempting the land that was exempted. During question period in the legislature, opposition MPP Bob Runciman told Premier Dalton McGuinty "The story gets worse. Mr. DeGasperis, the developer who thanked the Minister of Municipal Affairs today for exempting his lands from the greenbelt, is the same Mr. DeGasperis who paid $10,000 to meet with you and the finance minister at the Sorbara household last year."

On June 9, 2005, to deal with the embarrassing developments, the McGuinty Liberals introduced "real time reporting" legislation, in an effort to make it look as though they had nothing to hide and were in favour of transparency and accountability. Bill 214, the *Election Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005*, came into force on December 13, 2005. It placed onerous requirements on all political parties to report, within 10 days of deposit, every financial contribution they received (after the first $100 per year), together with the name of the contributor, whose names and contributions would be published on the Elections Ontario website for all to see.

One cash-for-access scandal was not enough for the Liberals.

On January 12, 2016, Toronto Star columnist Martin Regg Cohn reported that Wynne's cabinet ministers were expected by Wynne to "troll" big contributions to the Liberal party, essentially by making themselves available to big donors such as corporations and unions. He reported that ministers actually were given "quasi quotas": fundraising targets that they were expected to meet. "That's the price of admission to Kathleen Wynne's inner circle — a place where money talks, and is a key part of your unofficial job description", he wrote, and continued that "Moonlighting ministers who fail to meet their annual targets risk the wrath of a party and a premier who keep defending our indefensible fundraising laws."

A follow-up report in The Star on March 29, 2016 fell like a bomb on Wynne's government. Cohn reported Wynne's top cabinet ministers have "quasi quotas" of approximately $250,000.00, or double that. He reported that Wynne was making no apology for her government ministers' cash-for-access practices. The Globe and Mail responded with an edito-

ELECTION FINANCES REFORM (continued)

rial that openly questioned whether the practice constituted a violation of Canada's *Criminal Code*:

> "...as Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne keeps saying, everything her party and her cabinet members do to raise money conforms with the laws of the province.
>
> But the revelation this week that the Liberal Party sets massive fundraising quotas for cabinet ministers, and then asks those ministers to hit up corporate and union stakeholders in the sectors overseen by their respective departments, is too immense a breach of ethics to be swept under the table without further consequence.
>
> There is, in fact, language in the Criminal Code that seems to apply to the Liberals' fundraising scheme. Even if this contention goes no further than this editorial, it is still evidence of just how depraved the whole boondoggle really is. Yes, what the Liberals are doing may be legal, but only by the thinnest of margins.
>
> The money raised by the Liberal scheme comes from large donations paid by corporations, unions and wealthy private citizens. Those donations are paid in the form of expensive tickets to dinners and cocktail receptions where the attendees are promised intimate, one-on-one meetings with the cabinet ministers who have direct influence over the sectors in which they operate."

Within days, Kathleen Wynne had put together a response: she would introduce new legislation to change the way parties were funded. On April 11, 2016, she called Ontario PC leader Patrick Brown and NDP leader Andrea Horwath into her office to tell them about the legislative changes. Brown and Horwath were not happy that the initial draft of the changes had been drawn-up without their input, but all three party leaders were happy with the news that Wynne's government would introduce a taxpayer-funded per-vote allowance for their parties (but not for almost all other registered political parties).

The new legislation banned contributions by corporations and unions. It dramatically reduced the annual contribution limit for individuals: from $9,975 to $1,200.00. It gave the Liberals, Progressive Conservatives, NDP, and Greens (but not other parties) a per-vote subsidy: every ballot would now cost the taxpayer approximately $10 (even though the price of the ballot was already paid with the blood of Canadian soldiers), and all of that money would go only to the Liberals, NDP, PC, and Greens. Freedom Party and other parties were effectively excluded from the per-vote party subsidy. The subsidy was described as a way to replace lost corporate, union, and individual voluntary contributions, but the subsidy was made so large that it pays those parties several times more than the maximum millions of dollars each party is permitted to spend in an election. It sets those parties up for several elections into the future, making it difficult for newly emerging parties to compete with them.

Perhaps worst of all, the new legislation made it illegal for any party leader or candidate to attend his or her own party's fundraising events. For example, Paul McKeever - the leader of Freedom Party of Ontario - can no longer attend Freedom Party of Ontario fundraising dinners, even though the main speech at those dinners has - for decades - been that given by the party leader. In effect, the freedom of association and freedom of speech of individuals who are not cabinet ministers, who are not MPPs, who have absolutely no direct power to make or change laws, are violated by the new election finances legislation.

In summary, to distract the public from Liberal cash-for-access scandals, Liberal governments over the last 13 years have amended election finances laws to make themselves appear to be in favour of accountability and transparency. However, the real effect of these amendments has been to fill the election warchests of the Liberal, PCs, NDP, Green parties, and to violate the freedom of speech and freedom of association of individuals who - like you - are not elected and do not control the levers of government.

These protectionist and oppressive election finance laws cannot be permitted to stand.

A Freedom government will:

- maintain the ban on corporate and union donations;
- remove the cap on political contributions by individuals;
- allow party leaders and candidates to attend and speak at party fundraisers; and
- immediately discontinue the per-vote subsidy to political parties.

One of these things is not like the others:

	FREEDOM Leader: Paul McKeever	LIBERAL Leader: Kathleen Wynne
CLIMATE CHANGE / PRICE ON CARBON	Stop pretending to *fight* climate change. Affordably *adapt* to it instead. No "price on carbon": neutralize federal carbon tax by repealing provincial gasoline/fuel taxes.	Continue pretending to *fight* climate change. Impose a price on carbon - i.e., "cap and trade" - to inflate prices and tax revenues.
"GREEN" ELECTRICITY	Terminate inflated-price wind/solar/gas contracts. Introduce lower prices through competitive price system. End the ban on incandescent lightbulbs. End subsidies for electric cars/charging stations.	Continue existing inflated-price wind/solar contracts. No price competition. Favour expensive gas/wind/solar over nuclear/hydro. Maintain the ban on incandescent lightbulbs. Subsidize electric cars/charging stations.
PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM	Independent thought facilitated. Students to be taught biology of reproduction, not "gender" theories. Tolerance, not acceptance, required. Teachers instruct students: students are not self-taught. Renewed emphasis on phonics, grammar, and math procedures. Politics to be kept out of the classroom.	Independent thought discouraged. Students to be taught "gender" theories and sexual procedures. Support for multiple genders required. Teachers facilitate "experiential" self-instruction. Failed "whole language" reading emphasized. Relaxed standards for mathmatics grading. Politically-charged schools/students.
UNIVERSITIES / FREE SPEECH / FORCED SPEECH	To defend free speech: policing for university events; strictly merit-based hiring of profs; financial penalties on universities that prohibit or inhibit academic freedom or free speech; deny licencsing bodies the power to force members to make statements.	No comments about the current state of affairs regarding academic freedom, free speech or forced speech. No stated concern for the safety of students subjected to intimidation by protestors at university events. No plan to deal with any of it.
DUE PROCESS	Presumption of innocence in the court of public opinion. Employees and students not to be unduly penalized when accused of wrongdoing without due process.	No presumption of innocence. Employees and students may be unduly penalized when accused of wrongdoing without due process.
PROVINCIAL BUDGET	Balance the budget every year, starting with first full budget year (2019-20).	Spend more. Run a deficit (i.e., borrow money) or increase/impose new taxes if revenues do not cover expenses.
CANNABIS SALES / CONSUMPTION	Cannabis to continue to be available only from competing private stores serving those 19+ yrs of age. No *burning* cannabis in public places, but vaping and edibles permitted. Vapor lounges can continue operations for those aged 19+.	Cannabis to be sold only by government at government-dictated prices, with stores staffed by public sector union members. Current retailers to be charged/closed. Consumption illegal everywhere except in your own house.
FUNDING POLITICAL PARTIES	Repeal the per-vote allowance that the Liberals, PCs, and NDP gave themselves.Parties to fund themselves through voluntary contributions alone. $0.00 / vote.	Give provincial tax revenues to the Liberal, PC, NDP, and Green Parties on a per-vote basis (millions more than those parties used to raise for themselves). Approx. $10 /vote.

Ontario's political parties compared.

	PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) Leader: Vic Fedeli	NEW DEMOCRATIC (NDP) Leader: Andrea Horwath
CLIMATE CHANGE / PRICE ON CARBON	Continue pretending to *fight* climate change. The party's platform said it was in favour of doing that with a carbon tax. Platform now in disarray since fall of party leader.	Continue pretending to *fight* climate change. Impose a price on carbon - i.e., "cap and trade" - to inflate prices and tax revenues.
"GREEN" ELECTRICITY	Continue existing inflated-price wind/solar contracts. No price competition. Favour expensive gas/wind/solar over nuclear/hydro. Maintain the ban on incandescent lightbulbs. Ensure electric vehicle infrastructure is rolled out.	Continue existing inflated-price wind/solar contracts. No price competition. Favour expensive gas/wind/solar over nuclear/hydro. Maintain the ban on incandescent lightbulbs.
PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM	Independent thought discouraged. Students to be taught "gender" theories and sexual procedures. Support for multiple genders required. Teachers facilitate "experiential" self-instruction. Failed "whole language" reading emphasized. Relaxed standards for mathmatics grading. Politically-charged schools/students.	Independent thought discouraged. Students to be taught "gender" theories and sexual procedures. Support for multiple genders required. Teachers facilitate "experiential" self-instruction. Failed "whole language" reading emphasized. Relaxed standards for mathmatics grading. Politically-charged schools/students.
UNIVERSITIES / FREE SPEECH / FORCED SPEECH	No comments about the current state of affairs regarding academic freedom, free speech or forced speech. No stated concern for the safety of students subjected to intimidation by protestors at university events. No plan to deal with any of it.	No comments about the current state of affairs regarding academic freedom, free speech or forced speech. No stated concern for the safety of students subjected to intimidation by protestors at university events. No plan to deal with any of it.
DUE PROCESS	No presumption of innocence. Employees and students may be unduly penalized when accused of wrongdoing without due process.	No presumption of innocence. Employees and students may be unduly penalized when accused of wrongdoing without due process.
PROVINCIAL BUDGET	Spend more. Run a deficit (i.e., borrow money) or increase/impose new taxes if revenues do not cover expenses.	Spend more. Run a deficit (i.e., borrow money) or increase/impose new taxes if revenues do not cover expenses.
CANNABIS SALES / CONSUMPTION	No plan for dealing with July 2018 federal legalization of cannabis. No plan to repeal the Liberals' government cannabis monopoly. Sale of cannabis needs to be tightly controlled by the government. No plan to repeal the Liberal consume-only-at-home law.	Expand provincial cannabis retail monopoly to more locations. No plan to repeal the Liberal consume-only-at-home law.
FUNDING POLITICAL PARTIES	Give provincial tax revenues to the Liberal, PC, NDP, and Green Parties on a per-vote basis (millions more than those parties used to raise for themselves). Approx. $10 /vote.	Give provincial tax revenues to the Liberal, PC, NDP, and Green Parties on a per-vote basis (millions more than those parties used to raise for themselves). Approx. $10 /vote.

"Still *RIGHT* for Ontario"

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